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tion of this motive to the *whole* art of the Woodlands area. We have among the Algonkin two art centers, that of the northeastern Algonkian tribes, already characterized, and that of the Central Algonkin, where highly developed floral motives hold the field. Further, in both of these areas we find two design techniques, on textiles executed by women, and on bark by men. These bark designs are highly realistic in both areas, and it has been suggested that the birchbark realistic art of the Central Algonkin has been carried over into the realm of textiles with a consequent effect on the designs used in that technique. As Dr Speck has collected some exceedingly interesting data on the birchbark designs among the northeastern Algonkin, we await with interest his interpretation of their influence on textile design in that area.

LESLIE SPIER

*On the Shell Heaps of Maine.* By F. B. LOOMIS and D. B. YOUNG. (American Journal of Science, iv, Vol. xxxiv; No. 199, July, 1912, pp. 17-42.)

This paper deals with the remains found by excavation of shell heaps on the Maine coast, "one half of the time being devoted to a careful survey of one heap on Sawyer's Island, near Boothbay, the second month being spent in a more rapid investigation of several heaps for comparison."

After stating that shell heaps are found along the coast from Maine to New York City (and to Florida and beyond, the authors might have added) we are given an account of the careful study of the Sawyer's island shell heap. "Finds" are defined for us in a discriminating manner (p. 19), and the careful record of their occurrence is given in tabular and graphic form. Six layers, alternately of ashes and shells are shown in the typical sections of the shell heaps. The authors deduce from the rather inconclusive evidence of the occurrence of the lowest layer as "clear ashes," that "those camp sites were used for a long time before the habit of eating molluscs was acquired." But this deduction is open to doubt until an explanation is forthcoming as to the *raison d'être* of similar ash layers between strata of shells. In this connection, the diagram of a section of the Sawyer's Island heap (p. 21) showing the distributing finds would be improved by the addition of lines indicating the position of the several layers, that their relation to the strata of relatively abundant remains might be made clear. From a general consideration of the remains in the heaps, particularly the number and types of bone implements, it would appear that the camps were occupied for hunting and fishing, the occupation seasonal, and the use of particular food-animals

being dependent on their availability only. The heaps were evidently completed before the advent of the whites.

A large part of this paper is given to an enumeration of the food-animals used by the inhabitants of these camp sites. The authors point out the interesting feature that all but one of the deer crania belonged to individuals which had recently shed their antlers: that is, they had been killed in the spring. With regard to the skeletal remains of the dog, we are told that, "the peculiar build and constant differences in size have led us to designate them as three breeds, which we believe date back a long period of time for their origin, and then from some of the wolves" (p. 25).

More than half of the varieties of tools discovered were of bone: harpoon points, fish-hooks, awls, etc. The absence of the bone arrow-point is noted. The types of stone implements are few, arrow-heads, knives, celts, scrapers, pestles and hammer-stones, the shell heaps lacking many typical New England Algonkian forms. All of them contained potsherds: "the pots were of the tall round-bottomed type, characteristic of the New England Algonquins." While the type of pot shown in Fig. 11 is undeniably typically Algonkian, one could hardly characterize it as being "round-bottomed." These were built up by superimposing tier on tier of clay, a peculiar method if actually so. They were ornamented, in all cases, with stamped impressions.

It would appear that the chief interest of the authors lay in the relation of the aborigines to the food-animals: a relation which they have admirably determined. The fault in this paper, however, lies, not in the work accomplished, but in the presentation of results. Without doubt, the sweeping conclusions reached by the authors are due to a lack of proper correlation of these with other New England Algonkin data.

LESLIE SPIER

*Notes on Chasta Costa Phonology and Morphology.* By EDWARD SAPIR. (University of Pennsylvania, The University Museum Anthropological Publications, Vol. II, No. 2, pp. 265-340.) Philadelphia, 1914.

Dr E. Sapir achieved lately what the French could not help calling a veritable *tour de force*. Enlarging upon linguistic material incidentally derived from an Indian, mere bits of an aboriginal language which would not fill one common-sized page, he managed to write in explanation of the same no fewer than sixty-seven pages of first-class philological literature. His *Notes on the Chasta Costa Phonology and Morphology*, are perfectly illuminating, and betray not only a very keen ear but a